Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 PM-03 INR-05 CIAE-00 MC-01 IGA-01

NSC-05 NSCE-00 DODE-00 RSC-01 /039 W

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R 291726Z OCT 74 FM AMEMBASSY BONN TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5953 INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA AMEMBASSY ATHENS USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS CINCEUR VAIHINGEN

CONFIDENTIAL BONN 16972

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, GW, GR, TU

SUBJECT: GOG DESIRE TO ACQUIRE F-104 G'S

REF: (A) STATE 234580; (B) BONN 16875

- 1. FOLLOWING BASED ON MEMCON CLEARED BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN.
- 2. DURING COUNSELOR SONNENFELDT AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN'S OCTOBER 27 DISCUSSION AT HOME OF FRG FOREIGN OFFICE POLITICAL DIRECTOR VAN WELL, ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN ASKED IF THE FRG WOULD CONSIDER RELEASING ALL OF THE 72 SURPLUS F-104 AIRCRAFT IT HAD--PERHAPS HALF TO GREECE AND HALF TO TURKEY. THE TURKS HAD, HE NOTED, RECENTLY BOUGHT SOME F-104S FROM ITALY.
- 3. VAN WELL SAID THAT THE FEDERAL SECURITY COUNCIL WOULD BE ASKED TO DECIDE THE QUESTION BEFORE CHRISTMAS. IT WOULD ALSO BE ASKED TO DECIDE ABOUT THE EIGHTH TRANCHE OF AID TO TURKEY. THE MONEY IS THERE. THE CONFIDENTIAL

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WEAPONS ARE THERE. ALL THAT IS NEEDED IS A POLITICAL

DECISION. THE CHANCELLOR HAD NOT WANTED TO LOOK AT THE QUESTION WHEN THE SUBJECT OF US AID TO TURKEY WAS A SUBJECT OF DEBATE BETWEEN THE AMERICAN CONGRESS AND THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION FOR FEAR OF APPEARING TO INTERFERE IN US DOMESTIC AFFAIRS.

4. VAN WELL ADDED THAT THE CYPRUS SITUATION HAD REPRESENTED A SETBACK FOR TURKEY INSOFAR AS THE FRG PARLIAMENT IS CONCERNED. THE TURKS UNDERSTOOD THIS AND HAD REACTED "NOT POSITIVELY." HOWEVER, THEY ARE NO LONGER PRESSING THE FRG FOR AID. ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN URGED ONCE AGAIN THAT THEY RESUME AID AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

HILLENBRAND

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: MILITARY AIRCRAFT, MILITARY EQUIPMENT, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, SURPLUS MILITARY EQUIPMENT SALES

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 29 OCT 1974 Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BONN16972

Document Number: 1974BONN16972 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS Errors: N/A

Film Number: D740308-0851

From: BONN

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741011/aaaaaixy.tel

Line Count: 75

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Office: ACTION EUR Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators:

Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: (A) STATE 234580; (B) BONN 16875
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: o/a

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 08 APR 2002

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <06-Aug-2002 by golinofr>

Review Markings:

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

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To: STATE

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005